

16TH GROUND.

HELEN FERGUSON. Sworn for the State. Since the Frank trial last summer, in which I gave testimony, two attempts have been made either to get me to leave the city or change my testimony — the first by money and the second by having a young man make love to me and offering to marry me. Shortly after the trial I left home one morning to go to my work and on a street corner a young man who was a Jew came up to me and said he would give me \$100 and pay my board and all expenses if I would leave Atlanta, as Frank was going to get a new trial sometime soon. I refused and turned and walked away. The second attempt occurred in December, during the two weeks just before Christmas. When I left my work at the Clark Woodenware Company one afternoon, in December, I was walking down the street with another girl when a young man, whom I afterwards found out to be Jimmy Wren stepped up to us and said “Howdy do Miss Ferguson.” I told him I didn't remember him and he said: “This is Mr. Howard, don't you remember when you worked at Blocks? I worked there too and wanted to meet you then but I didn't have a chance.” That was the way I met him. He took me to the show a night or two later and was mighty nice too. I hadn't known him more than two days, before he began to make love to me. A few days after I met him we were walking uptown together, when we met a big heavy fellow, whom I have since found out was Mr. C. W. Burke, the detective. Jimmy Wren, or Howard, as he called himself at that time, stopped and introduced me to him as his father. We talked for several minutes. He said some awful things about the police. He said something about wanting me to make a new statement in the Frank case, and I said “No sir” As we turned to leave he said to Mr. Howard “Bring her up to the office tonight I want to talk to her anyhow.” That night Mr. Howard came to the Clark Woodenware Company at 9 o'clock when I got off to take me to town to see a show. Jimmy was making real love to me that night, said he wanted me to marry him, but he kept on talking about wanting me to sign an affidavit about the Frank case first. He took me up to the Grant Building and there in an office his “father” was waiting for us. They asked me again to change my statement in the Frank case and say it was some other time Frank had refused to give me Mary Phagan's pay envelope than the time I said it was. But I said that I had told the truth and wasn't going to change it, and Jimmy said “Well, I'd hate to be the main one to put the rope around Frank's neck, and I said I couldn't help it since I had only told the truth. While we were talking about the Frank case in this way, I happened to tell them that I was afraid of Jim Conley. They then dropped the talk about my evidence and fixed up an affidavit for me to sign about Conley, and I signed it in order to satisfy them. I have never seen him but once since that night. I found out a few days later that his real name was Jimmy Wren and not Howard. It was several weeks later before I found out that his “father” was the detective C. W. Burke. A newspaper reporter came out to see me about my affidavit and described Burke to me and the description made it plain that he was none other than “father”. The office I was in was that of Part[n]er in Rosser's office.